

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ALLERGY IN RELATION TO OTOLARYNGOLOGY.** By French K. Hansel, M.D., Editor-in-Chief, *Annals of Allergy*, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Washington University School of Medicine. A Panel Discussion. Bruce Publishing Company, St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1949. An Official Publication of the American College of Allergists, \$2.50.

The first part of this book, which is edited by Dr. French K. Hansel, deals with the clinical side of allergic reactions as related to the respiratory tract. Particular stress is put on the nose and accessory sinuses. Dr. Hansel gives a thorough explanation of nasal cytology and emphasizes the tremendous importance of this diagnostic procedure. Six beautiful plates showing different grades of eosinophilia in the nasal secretions are presented.

In a discussion of the problem of tonsillectomy in children with allergic disease, it is emphasized that often the operation affords poor relief of symptoms. The question of allergic disease of bacterial origin is left open. A discussion of the pathology of allergic states is rather weak since the fundamental problem of changes in the small blood vessels is not discussed. But in general this part of the book makes very worthwhile reading and should impress upon any rhinologist that allergic disorders are of tremendous importance in his specialty.

In the latter part of the book, which is a panel discussion, differences of opinion are so pronounced as to indicate that individual interest may be concerned with only one phase rather than with the entire picture. One discussant, for example, tends to overemphasize surgical treatment, while another confines his attention to psychosomatic aspects.

There is an excellent discussion of aviation problems with regard to persons with allergic sensitivity.

Discussants were fairly well in accord as to the usefulness of radium in the treatment of hypertrophied lymphatic tissue in the nasopharynx. However, the reviewer believes that it is now pretty well agreed that radium therapy has been overdone; it is the opinion of many rhinologists that x-ray therapy is much less dangerous and more effective in this condition.

Despite these criticisms, the reviewer believes that this little book, which takes only about two hours to read, is very worthwhile for any rhinologist.

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**HUMAN GROWTH—The Story of How Life Begins and Goes On, Based on the Educational Film of the Same Title.** By Lester F. Beck, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon, and Margie Robinson, M.A. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1949. \$2.00.

This book is a welcome addition to the literature on sex education for 'teen-age children.

It will surely be well received by the junior high school group to whom it is especially addressed, and by the various adults who deal with them on this subject. One noteworthy feature of the book is the number, variety and attractiveness of its illustrations. Another excellence is the fullness of the background material on general somatic growth against which the account of specific sexual changes takes its proper place as one important expression of human development. Commendable also is its direct style, with its straightforward, unsentimental description of the processes and significance of various aspects of sexual function, including intercourse.

Only in connection with pregnancy does the author seem to relay a few concepts which fall short of the modern ideal. For instance, he says that a missed menstrual period "warns" the mother of pregnancy (one could prefer a word like "heralds"); he mentions some experience of nausea as a matter of course, even though he minimizes it; he fails to substitute "contractions" for labor "pains." These are such minor details that they would not be worth mentioning except for the fact that we are in an era where young people are ready to profit by every reassurance of the naturalness and happiness of pregnancy and birth.

Perhaps the greatest value of the book is that it is a companion piece to a film of like name, and that each chapter ends with a set of stimulating questions and answers. Both of these devices tend to guarantee that the author will succeed in his intention of "contributing to mental health by a simple honest telling of the story of human growth and by providing a sound basis for discussion with others." For without open discussion one is never quite sure what an adolescent has understood, no matter how clear the text he reads.

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**BULLETIN ON NARCOTICS**, No. 1, October 1949. United Nations, Department of Social Affairs, Lake Success, New York.

This is the first of a regular series of bulletins on the traffic in narcotics to be issued quarterly by the United Nations, thus continuing similar work initiated by the defunct League of Nations. Subjects considered in this issue are international control of narcotic drugs, opium production throughout the world, an enquiry into the coca leaf situation in South America, determining the origin of opium, and administrative matters pertaining to the commission on narcotics. There are illustrations of narcotic plants, cultivated areas, native plantation workers, maps of countries showing legal and illegal production of opium, laboratory assistants analyzing crude products, etc. The discussion on the origin of opium is disappointing as it contains nothing of historical interest; such material is better presented in current textbooks on pharmacology. In fact the scientific matter in this bulletin is so elementary and limited that it has nothing to offer to scientists and physicians. The bulletin is of interest only to regulation-makers and administrative authorities concerned with legal technicalities of the traffic in narcotics.

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**CYSTOSCOPY AND UROGRAPHY.** By James B. MacAlpine, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., lately Honorary Surgeon and Surgeon in Charge of the Genito-urinary Department, Salford Royal Hospital. Third Edition, Revised. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$13.50.

The third edition of MacAlpine's book on "Cystoscopy and Urography" is a text for students, budding urologists, and the surgeon who does an occasional cystoscopy. There is very little change in this edition over the previous books, the first edition being published in 1927, the second in 1936. Chapters on renal tuberculosis and punch operation for prostatic hypertrophy have been added to the third edition. The book goes into meticulous detail about the cystoscope, its construction, ocular system, care, limitations, and general uses. Most of the commonly occurring diseases observed in the practice of office urology are discussed. There are excellent sections on urinary calculi, renal anomalies and the

technique of urography. A chapter on diseases of the prostate is included together with a discussion of transurethral prostatic resections as practiced in England. This important and live subject is dealt with inadequately and gives misleading ideas of present-day procedures and results. The same group of cases with the same high operative mortality described in the 1936 edition are again reported in the 1946 book. An incomplete channelling type of operation is again advised and no mention is made of the important advances and improvements in this procedure during the last decade.

Continued and careful study of the book reveals a wealth of material. The section on bladder tumors is especially well done, although the suggested massive cystoscopic coagulation of the larger papillomas is quite laborious and cumbersome when compared to present-day rapid and more thorough transurethral resection methods.

The book is easy to read, concise, easy to handle, printed on good paper, and the illustrations are numerous and well done. Especially commendable are the colored cystoscopic drawings, illustrating the different bladder lesions. Any failure to make this new edition as up-to-date as it might be is partly compensated for by emphasis on fundamentals that have stood the test of time; while not taking the place of our recently published urologic texts, this book is definitely an addition to the cystoscopist's library.

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**MAY'S MANUAL OF THE DISEASES OF THE EYE—For Students and General Practitioners.** 20th Edition. Charles A. Perere, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, N. Y. 378 Illustrations—32 plates with 93 colored figures. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1949. \$5.00.

Since its first edition this book has become one of the American medical classics. As stated in the first edition, the book is intended as a concise, practical and systematic manual of the diseases of the eye for the medical student and the general practitioner of medicine.

The twentieth edition has been completely revised and reset, and many portions of the text have been rewritten. Many of the black-and-white illustrations of the 19th edition which had outlived their distinctness have been omitted or have been replaced by new cuts. The chapter on the diseases of the conjunctiva has been revised and under therapy the newer antibiotics have been discussed. The chapter on the diseases of the optic nerve has been rewritten. One wonders if the long chapter on the complicated subject of disturbances of motility of the eye has a place in a book of this character.

Dr. Perera is to be congratulated on the fact that in the rather extensive revision he has not changed the original purpose or character of the book.

The printing and general format are a distinct improvement over the preceding edition.

The book should maintain its popularity and continue to serve as a reliable and practical introduction to the practice of ophthalmology.

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**A SYNOPSIS OF MEDICINE.** By Sir Henry Letheby Tidy, K.B.E., M.A., M.D., Extra Physician to H.M. the King, Consulting Physician to St. Thomas' Hospital. Ninth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1949. \$7.50.

Nine editions of this well-known English synopsis of medicine may "rather strongly imply usefulness" as one reviewer has said, but it is difficult to determine under what circumstances. To encompass all of medical knowledge in 1,146 pages and do justice to each subject is perhaps asking too much of any author, and Sir Henry has made a brave attempt. The book, however, leaves much to be desired in

the way of accuracy, completeness and clarity. Controversial subjects, especially in the realm of therapy, are briefly disposed of with positive statements as though the issue were closed. Criteria for prognosis are set up which seem to be at best based on clinical impressions of the author's, and are at times at variance with the literature. Questionable statements as to etiology, pathology and symptomatology may be readily found. The outline form necessitates too much brevity, and numerous cross references further decrease the usefulness, even for a quick review. And yet the author stops to define "watery eyes—the tear that never drops"! Numerous lists of symptoms are given without indication of which are important and significant.

Examples of the above:

Page 665—"Malignant hypertension has no existence apart from malignant nephrosclerosis."

Page 665—"Physical signs of benign hypertrophy—Cardiac hypertrophy always develops."

Page 665—"Treatment of benign hypertension by diet: "No red meat," "strict salt-free diet not advisable," "colonic irrigation once a week!"

Page 795—"Histology of kidneys in malignant hypertension: "See benign hypertrophy, but all changes more advanced and more extensive."

In view of the above the reviewer does not believe that Tidy's "Synopsis of Medicine" in any way replaces the many excellent textbooks now available. It is useful as a compendium and has a great deal of valuable information and therefore may have a place for the student who is preparing for examination. It is, however, not recommended as a textbook for medical students desiring more extensive coverage of the field of medicine.

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**A TWENTIETH CENTURY PHYSICIAN, Being the Reminiscences of Sir Arthur Hurst, D.M.** The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$3.50.

Sir Arthur Hurst was well known in this country and his brilliant work was fully appreciated. But few realized the many facets of his interesting character which are revealed in this little book of memoirs. Hurst is a natural raconteur and one's interest never flags as he reads through the author's vivid recollections of his childhood, medical school experiences, and thus on through his varied and exciting career. The war passages are of especial interest and the thumbnail sketches of innumerable interesting and important people constantly surprise one with unexpected bits of information. It is greatly to be regretted that Sir Arthur's sudden death prevented the narrative from being carried through his later years. A few typographical errors, mostly in spelling of proper names—such as Trousseau for Trousseau—are to be found on pp. 99, 106, 175 and 181; they will no doubt be corrected in a subsequent printing.

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**AN ATLAS OF HUMAN SEX ANATOMY.** By Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D., F.A.C.S. A Topographical Hand Atlas. Medical Aspects of Human Fertility Series Issued by the National Committee on Maternal Health. Second Edition. 1949. \$10.00.

Your reviewer cannot refrain from quoting the introductory paragraph of the preface to the second edition because it describes so poignantly the intent behind the compilation of facts and factors which make up the substance of Dickinson's "Atlas of Human Sex Anatomy." Dickinson expressed his reason for bringing forth a book on sex anatomy as follows:

"The first principle of sex education and marriage counselling gives attitudes precedence over anatomies. Yet function has structure for its machinery, and evasion of instruction concerning anatomy in action is in part responsible for the physical discord alleged by participants to be the